

Local schoolchildren have transformed the cycle shed at Romsey station with their artwork



Welcome to the latest Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership e-newsletter, which is full of reports about our recent activities; what is happening at the stations along the 'figure of 6' route and information about some of the interesting projects that we have coming up.

Colourful murals brighten Romsey station

We are delighted to report that the first of the colourful murals designed by children from local Romsey schools has been mounted on the wall of the cycle shed on Platform 2, near the steps of the subway. The murals were produced some time ago - however the process to obtain permission to display them has taken many months of careful negotiation as the station buildings are Grade 2 listed. The bright montage, expertly combining textiles and photographs with the children's drawings, will certainly get noticed by passengers using or passing through the station. It is worth going to the station just to see this wonderful artwork!



Above: Transport and nature combine in the mural now mounted on Platform 2, depicting a train passing through the local countryside.



Romsey forecourt seat installed

Thanks to the County Councillor's Devolved Budget Scheme of Hampshire County Council, a bench has been supplied and installed under the canopy outside **Romsey** station. Whilst there are plenty of seats on the station platforms, many requests had been made for a seat outside by the station entrance, and now those wishes have been granted!

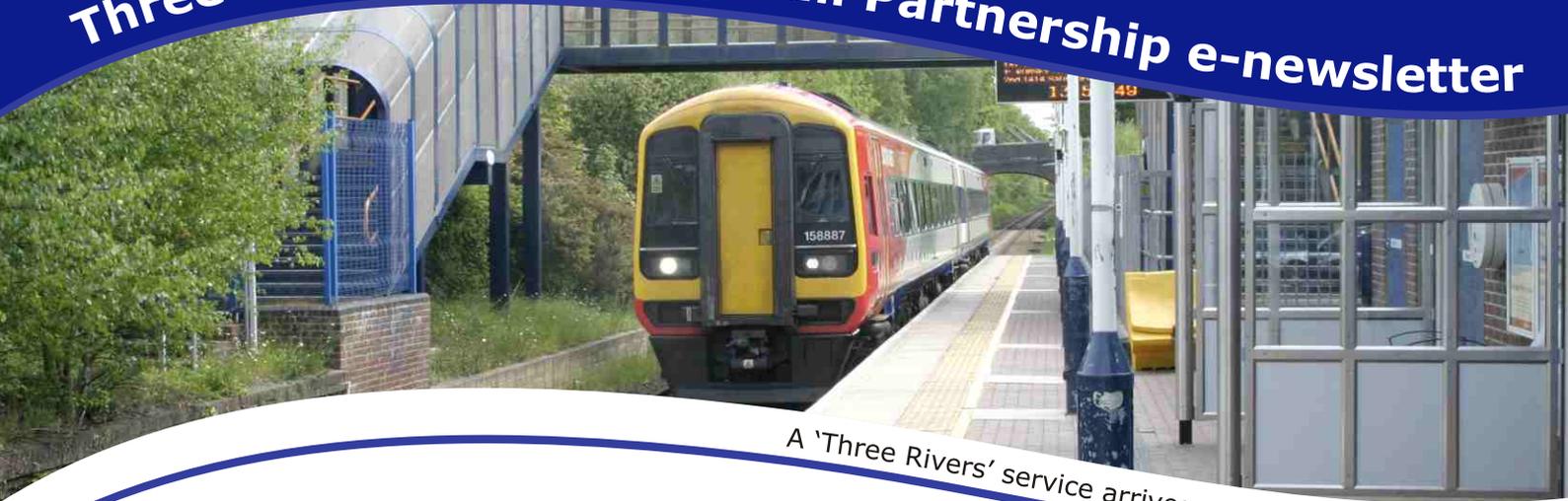
Left: The brushed steel bench will provide a welcome place to sit for anyone waiting to be collected after arriving by train, or for those waiting to use the 'phone box!



Our website

Train information, maps and useful links are featured on this website. Why not explore www.threeriversrail.com and see what you can find out?

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership e-newsletter



A 'Three Rivers' service arrives at Chandler's Ford station

New Cycle gullies for Chandler's Ford footbridge

If you have ever had to take a bicycle over a footbridge at a railway station, you will know it can be very difficult and quite exhausting if there are no lifts.

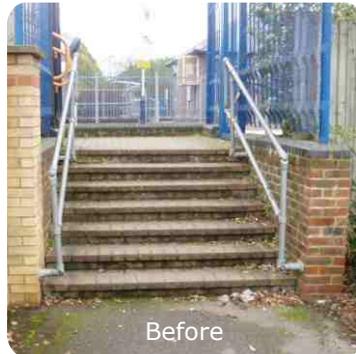
Help is now at hand for the users of **Chandler's Ford** station. During May, the station footbridge was equipped with metal gullies fitted at the side of the steps. These gullies are a simple and effective way to help wheel a bicycle up and down the flights of steps. A real bonus is that this type of gully can be fitted retrospectively to existing footbridges whereas previously they have had to be built in to the footbridge structure during construction.

The **Chandler's Ford** cycle gullies have been installed thanks to the work of Nick Farthing, Chair of the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** and Local Officer for Sustrans - the charitable organisation dedicated to advancing the use of cycling, and Sarah Wallbridge who is the Sustainable Transport Manager for Eastleigh Borough Council.



© Sarah Wallbridge

Above: The new cycle gully fixed to the overbridge steps at Chandler's Ford station.



© Sarah Wallbridge

© Sarah Wallbridge

Before

After

Above, left to right: Passengers taking their bicycles on the train, and those leaving their cycles at the station, will benefit from the new cycle gully on the steps to the overbridge.

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Local people enjoying the Spring Walk along Monk's Brook

Swaythling nature walks

Thanks to Swaythling volunteer Bob Painton (see Page 7) more of our popular nature walks took place in the Spring and in August. These now well-established walks offer a pleasant stroll to observe the wildlife and plants along Monk's Brook and the footpaths close to **Swaythling** station. Historical information on local landmarks was provided by Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership Officer - Mark Miller, who accompanied Bob. Special thanks also goes to Swaythling Housing Association which helped to fund the posters advertising the walks. **Watch out for future walk dates on our website.**

Right: The Marsh-marigold is just one of the beautiful plants growing next to Monk's Brook.



Swaythling litter-pick and gardening

A group of volunteers conducted a litter-pick around the station on 27 March, whilst others got their hands dirty and planted a variety of flowers in an area of land near the footbridge ramp. The patch of land used for the planting was previously an area of rough grass and weeds. However, providing water for the plants is proving a problem for the volunteers, as currently it has to be brought to the station by the volunteers and water is very heavy! **If anyone reading this newsletter has any ideas of how a source of water can be provided on-site, please contact us.**

Major growth in **PLUSBUS** ticket sales in Southampton

PLUSBUS offers you a cheap add-on bus fare to your rail ticket in many towns across the country. Many **PLUSBUS** destinations achieved very high annual percentage increases in ticket issues over the 2009/10 financial year. The table below shows Southampton to be in the top ten of station destinations where **PLUSBUS** sales increased dramatically during this period:

Top 10 destinations	Year-on-year % increase in issues	Year-on-year increase in issues
1 Leeds	325%	3,091
2 Swansea	215%	2,521
3 Aberdeen	209%	2,542
4 Manchester	205%	3,835
5 Stoke-on-Trent	200%	4,842
6 Brighton	184%	19,303
7 Nottingham	180%	3,932
8 Edinburgh	153%	3,400
9 Bristol	149%	6,747
10 Southampton	145%	2,568



For more information on combined bus and rail tickets in Southampton, please visit www.plusbus.info

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Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership e-newsletter



The steelwork in place for the Riverside Boardwalk near St. Denys station

Riverside Boardwalk near St. Denys station

Construction of the Sustrans 'Connect2 scheme Riverside Boardwalk' is now complete.

The elevated riverside boardwalk is built along a one kilometre stretch of the west bank of the River Itchen and railways lines between Horseshoe Bridge, Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate and Northam Bridge roadbridge.

The boardwalk has views of the tidal Itchen Estuary into Southampton Water, and provides a pleasant and tranquil access route to the city centre, avoiding the busy Empress Road. It will eventually form part of a cycle route across Cobden Bridge and on as far as Riverside Park in Swaythling.

In addition, this new cycle and walkway provides a vital link for people to get around under their own steam for daily journeys, and enables football fans to walk directly along the new path from **St. Denys** station to St. Mary's stadium.

The boardwalk has been funded by Southampton City Council, the National Lottery, and the cycle charity Sustrans. To complete this project, the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** and South West Trains are aiming to install additional cycle racks at **St. Denys** station to encourage more rail-bicycle interchange.



LOTTERY FUNDED



St. Denys Volunteer Group formed



We are delighted to report the formation of another station volunteer group, this time at **St. Denys**. The first meeting was held in February at the friendly Junction Inn pub, which appears in our upcoming 'Inn Line' guide (see Page 8). It proved to be an extremely positive meeting, attended by several representatives of local community groups and organisations, which have drawn up a number of ideas for improving the station and the local area.

The follow-up meeting was held on May 18 at the same venue and on this occasion we gained three more enthusiastic helpers. Two are keen gardeners and the other is eager to undertake publicity distribution work in the local area.

St. Denys Primary School passenger survey

As part of a local community project, a group of youngsters from St. Denys Primary School recently undertook a survey of people using **St. Denys** station to find out their views about the train service and the station facilities. In recognition of their efforts, one lucky pupil (and family) won a family rail ticket kindly donated by South West Trains.

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The shelters and extensive covered bicycle rack now in place at at Southampton Airport (Parkway) station

New covered walkways and cycle racks at Southampton Airport (Parkway)

Following the installation of the new footbridge and lifts at **Southampton Airport (Parkway)** station last autumn, some additional infrastructure improvements have now taken place at the station. Covered walkways, with seating, have been extended from the foot of the overbridge steps on the London platform, and also on the airport side of the station leading to a new access walkway ramp across to the airport terminal. New high capacity cycle racks have also been installed (*bottom, right*).



Separate access has been created to the footbridge, which allows the ticket office building on Platform 1, to be closed out of hours. There are self-service ticket machines on both platforms.

South West Trains have also provided additional passenger information screens (*left*) on the station. These give train departure times in 'Real Time'.



Rail Partnership station usage continues to grow

The 2008/9 figures show a 4.8% increase in usage. We await with interest more recent figures!

	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Chandler's Ford	0	93,462	155,477	180,281	198,588	212,987	236,221
Dean	8,810	10,180	12,087	12,697	12,103	11,487	16,690
Eastleigh	1,010,324	1,119,305	1,163,309	1,169,084	1,248,089	1,364,488	1,446,829
Millbrook	11,007	20,937	20,975	21,122	21,992	29,265	27,446
Mottisfont and Dunbridge	10,640	9,758	10,611	13,261	14,028	12,941	17,344
Redbridge	12,163	18,059	21,343	17,953	16,155	20,238	27,318
Romsey	305,054	292,395	339,174	348,858	371,186	398,418	415,716
Salisbury	1,436,654	*	1,560,337	1,603,255	1,620,677	1,681,413	1,757,216
Southampton Airport	990,880	1,115,963	1,190,497	1,421,305	1,322,387	1,403,733	1,445,823
Southampton Central	4,376,749	4,542,479	4,655,895	4,844,998	5,084,065	5,486,701	5,751,523
St. Denys	164,685	189,878	190,919	195,289	202,254	207,128	218,933
Swaythling	69,168	78,788	73,682	77,802	85,292	88,684	90,105
Passenger totals	8,396,134	7,491,204	9,394,306	9,905,905	10,196,816	10,917,483	11,451,163

* Figure not available.
Source: Office of the Rail Regulator

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The Sunday FREE BUS calling at the entrance to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Free Bus links update

We are pleased to report that the two FREE BUS links organised by the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** have returned for the 2010 season.

The FREE BUS service operating from **Romsey** station to **Mottisfont and Dunbridge** station serves the same attractions as last year. This popular free link offers the chance for anyone to visit Mottisfont Abbey (National Trust); the world famous Sir Harold Hillier Gardens at Ampfield; Kimbridge Food and Deli; Choice Plants at Kimbridge and Romsey Abbey.

We are delighted that Hampshire County Council and Hilliers have agreed to support the service again this year. The minibus came to the rescue at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens one Sunday in June, when a coach carrying 35 visiting Italian students broke down at the Gardens, and we were able to ferry them all back to Romsey town centre.

The Romsey to Mottisfont FREE BUS is funded by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, Hillier Gardens, Hampshire County Council, Kimbridge Food and Deli, Test Valley Borough Council and the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership.

FREE BUS

Operates every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from 2 May to 26 September 2010

Explore the **Test Valley...**

- Romsey Abbey
- Romsey ⇄
- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
- Choice Plants, Timsbury
- Kimbridge Gift, Food and Deli
- Mottisfont Abbey
- Mottisfont & Dunbridge ⇄

The Bus is free to everyone and runs in both directions.

01794 369318

2 May to 26 September 2010

FREE BUS

on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Eastleigh ⇄ - Marwell Wildlife

go wild on Sundays!

Having carried over 600 people in 2009, the Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday FREE BUS service operated by Eastleigh's 'One Community' from **Eastleigh** station to **Marwell Wildlife** has also made a good start this year. Passenger numbers at the time of printing have already exceeded last year's total, which is a great mark of success.

The Marwell FREE BUS is funded by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, Hampshire County Council and the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership.

Left: The leaflets promoting the Marwell Wildlife FREE BUS feature ostriches inside and penguins on the cover - just two of the many wonderful birds to be seen at the zoological park.

If you have ideas for more rail-bus links, please let us know.

Eastleigh station foyer

Funded by South West Trains, work in the entrance foyer at **Eastleigh** station has moved the sliding doors which give access to the platforms. This has allowed the ticket office and café area to be secured at night, whereas previously it had had to remain open to allow passenger access to and from the platforms. The footbridge steps and lifts are now outside of the sliding doors. Rail passengers can gain access to the station and overbridge by means of a side gate entrance whenever the main entrance is closed.

Three Rivers

Community Rail Partnership

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership e-newsletter



'Three Rivers' volunteers hard at work on the redundant platform at Chandler's Ford station

Our volunteers in focus

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** is extremely lucky to have many wonderful volunteers, all of whom are keen to make a difference. Without them, much of the good work seen along the Three Rivers route simply would not happen.

Gordon and Cathy Wood at Mottisfont & Dunbridge (1).

Gordon and Cathy Wood are the dynamic duo who keep an eye on things at **Mottisfont & Dunbridge**. This lovely rural station provides a vital link for local residents and is also very handy for visitors to the nearby National Trust property, or the Mill Arms pub and restaurant. Gordon and Cathy are the eyes and ears of the station, taking care of the flower planters on the platforms, picking up litter, weeding and cutting back vegetation throughout the year. They have also successfully campaigned to have Network Rail remove unsightly litter and equipment from close to the station which was spoiling the view! If you see Gordon and Cathy then why not give them a wave.

Nicky Holland SWT (2).

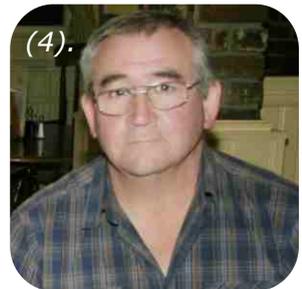
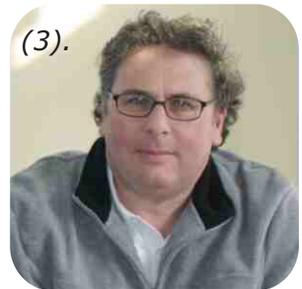
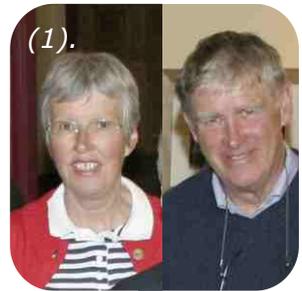
Nicky Holland, a South West Trains Duty Manager based at **Southampton Central** station, wins a **Three Rivers 'Gold Star'** for her recycling skills. Whilst she was involved in a clear-out of surplus packaging materials at work, Nicky remembered that Three Rivers were in need of some planters and other garden items. Suddenly, the old packaging crates that were destined for the skip became planting tubs in Nicky's eyes, and the surplus timber was transformed into compost bins! All of these items were destined for landfill, but as Nicky knew of a better use for them, she contacted The Partnership who arranged for the materials to be delivered to our volunteers working at **Swaythling** and **Chandler's Ford** stations. Well done Nicky...you are a star.

John Aplin at Chandler's Ford (3).

John is one of an enthusiastic team of volunteers who have been hard at work using their handiwork skills to transform some of the donated wooden crates supplied by South West Trains (*see above*), into attractive planters for use on the disused platform at **Chandler's Ford** station. He and rest of the team (Valerie, Sid, Dave, Barry, Dave, Mike, Nick, Mark and others) have also constructed a large, wooden compost bin for volunteers' use. The planters look very smart having been painted in South West Trains colours and filled with matching flowers!

Bob Painton at Swaythling (4).

Bob Painton, who many will know through his work as an amateur photographer, wildlife expert and **Swaythling** station volunteer, has received a 'Southampton Good Neighbour' award. Bob, who organises and conducts our nature walks from **Swaythling** station, was presented with the award by the then Southampton Mayor, Liz Mizon. The award was made in recognition of Bob's efforts to give cohesion to local Mansbridge and Swaythling communities by encouraging volunteering with the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** and at the Monks Brook Nature area.



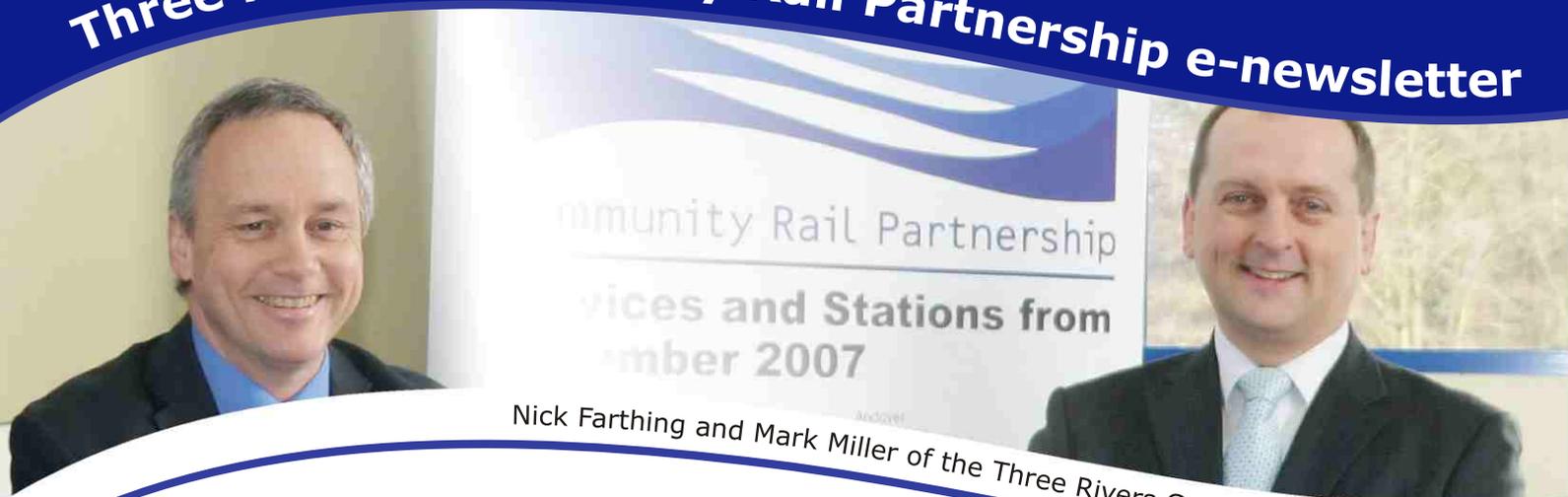
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Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership e-newsletter



Nick Farthing and Mark Miller of the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

New 'Inn Line' Guide for passengers

We are shortly to publish an 'Inn Line' Guide. This new leaflet gives details of eighteen selected pubs and eating establishments close to stations on the Three Rivers route. The fully illustrated leaflet features a map showing the proximity of each location to the stations, along with a brief description of each venue, how to get there on foot, and relevant contact information. With a strong food and drink theme, the leaflet also gives details about Market Days, and specialist Farmers' Markets in the area selling local produce and local town food guides.

The 'Inn Line' Guide is a follow up to our successful 'Line Guide' leaflet, which describes the train journey and station history along the Three Rivers route. A version of the 'Inn Line' Guide will appear on our website.

Contact us...

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** exists to promote the use of the rail service on the **Salisbury-Southampton-Romsey** route. Involvement from local businesses and individuals is most welcome to help us in our aims.

If you have any ideas or comments on the items covered in this e-newsletter, or on how we can fulfil our role, or if you wish to volunteer some of your time to help with other projects, please contact
Mark Miller: markmiller10@tiscali.co.uk
or Nick Farthing: nick.farthing@dial.pipex.com

The value of volunteering should not be underestimated. A recent Association of Community Rail Partnerships report says:

"Research shows that every £1 spent through a Community Rail Partnership generates benefits to the value of over £4.60."

This is really great value for money for funding partners and the rail industry!

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